

George P. Bush, Commissioner

Why Texas Travels?

Texas has a wonderful and unique past, like no other state. Even our history is bigger! Learning about Texas' past through research and writing makes us appreciate being a Texan. The Texas Travels Essay Contest encourages students to read and write about cities, towns, and distinct geographical locales that are significant to the development of this state, as well as the brave individuals who pioneered vast and uncharted areas of Texas.



Proud to be the Official Airline of the
Save Texas History Essay Contest™



San Antonio Convention
& Visitors Bureau



4TH & 7TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

Entries Must Be Received by March 13, 2015.

4th Grade

200-300 words. Handwritten or typed in journal or letter format.

Imagine you are an explorer of early Texas and must record your experiences in a journal or letters home. What would explorers write about in their journals to their family, friends or supporters?

Discussion Questions

- ★ Why are you exploring Texas?
- ★ Who and what do you see in this new land?
- ★ Where would you settle in Texas and why?
- ★ How do you know where to go?
- ★ What would settlers want to know about the new land? What would they want other explorers and settlers to tell them?

Judging Criteria

Originality and creativity	40 %
Historical accuracy	30 %
Organization, grammar and spelling	20 %
Neatness and presentation	10 %

Acknowledgments are NOT required for fourth-grade entries.

7th Grade

400-600 words. Must include citations.*

If you could travel in time back to the early years of a Texas city, community or historic locale, where would you visit and why?

Discussion Questions

- ★ What makes a place special and why is your chosen place special to you?
- ★ How does a place become a part of history? What makes a place a historical setting?
- ★ How can the story of a location or community link the past and the present?

Judging Criteria

Originality and creativity	40 %
Historical accuracy	30 %
Organization, grammar and spelling	20 %
Neatness and presentation	10 %

- * Please credit sources on an "Acknowledgments" page. Using MLA or Turabian citation styles, include authors, publication titles and dates for all sources used. For online sources, list the full URL of each page used. The General Land Office reserves the right to request electronic copies of any submission to review for plagiarism.

Eligibility

All public, private and home-schooled students of appropriate age for fourth and seventh grades may participate.

Evaluation & Judging

The entrant's name should not appear in any portion of the essay. Submissions must be stapled to the signed contest entry form. Essays will be coded and judged anonymously according to fourth- and seventh-grade skill and knowledge levels.

Prizes & Awards

One grand prize award winner per grade level will receive round trip airline tickets for four to San Antonio from any Southwest Airlines destination in Texas, hotel accommodations for two nights and complimentary tickets to attractions provided by the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau. Ten finalists per grade level will win Save Texas History backpacks, certificates of appreciation and a historic map replica from the Land Office map collection.

Questions? Contact Buck Cole at 800.998.4456 or 512.936.9644 or buck.cole@glo.texas.gov

Submit Entries

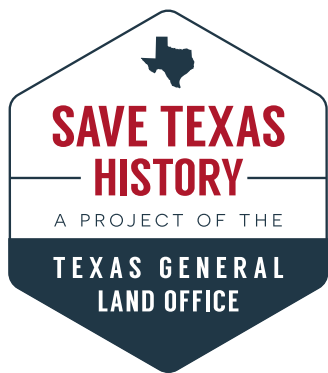
By Mail:

Texas General Land Office
Attn: Buck Cole/STH Essay Contest
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, Texas 78711-2873

In Person:

1700 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

Electronically (PDF format only):
essaycontest@glo.texas.gov



ENTRY FORM

Entries Must Be Received by March 13, 2015.

George P. Bush, Commissioner

Student Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____

School Name _____

City _____ Zip _____

Teacher Name _____

Teacher Email Address _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Parent/guardian Email Address _____

I, _____ (parent/guardian), give _____ (student) permission to enter his/her essay in the Texas Travels Save Texas History Essay Contest. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) or its agents may use the attached essay entry and my child's name and likeness for Save Texas History purposes including advertising, publicity and other media. Entries will become the property of the GLO and will not be returned. Entrants are encouraged to photocopy their submissions and to call 512.463.6740 to verify receipt by the GLO. I understand that certain winners may be invited to attend Save Texas History events. Participation in such events is voluntary and travel expenses will not be reimbursed if the winner or finalists choose to attend. Damaged, lost or late entries are not eligible. Household family members of GLO employees are not eligible. The parent/guardian of the winner is solely responsible for all taxes on prizes and must meet eligibility requirements as determined by the contributors. The parent/guardian of the winner is responsible for booking the flight and hotel, which are subject to availability. Southwest Airlines tickets will bear the date of issue and of expiration. The expiration dates will not be extended and tickets will not be refundable or redeemable for cash or credit at any time, nor will tickets be replaced if lost or stolen. Ticket holder must be 18 years or older. Tickets cannot be resold to a third party. Tickets valid on Southwest-operated, published, scheduled service only. Tickets may not be used for other purposes unless previously approved through Southwest Airlines. No substitutions are allowed. Hotel: rooms available with certificate are limited. Certain locations or dates may be completely excluded. Certificate is for standard room only, 1-4 persons per room. One certificate per room, per stay; copies not accepted. Certificate not valid for groups or with any other discount. Please note expiration dates on certificates and admission passes. Void where prohibited by law.

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In Person:

1700 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

Electronically (PDF format only):
essaycontest@glo.texas.gov

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Checklist

- ☐ Entry Form
- ☐ Completed Essay
- ☐ Acknowledgments page (7th graders)

Questions?

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